

A B S T R A C T

In order to improve a pumping light source for laser-active media comprising an outer member enclosing a gas discharge medium, a first electrode acting as a cathode and having a first electrode end located within the outer member, a second electrode acting as an anode and having a second electrode end located within the outer member and a gas discharge chamber located within the outer member between the electrode ends facing one another, in such a manner that the service life thereof is longer it is suggested that the first electrode end be essentially cooled by radiation and that a predominantly diffuse gas discharge be formed proceeding from an areally extended surface area located at the first electrode end.